

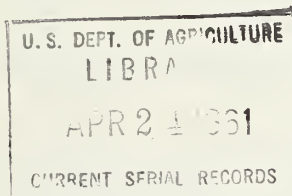
Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

AG1.9
F76
cop. 2

FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Foreign Agricultural Service Washington D.C.



SEEDS
FFVS 1-61
April 1961

JAPAN'S GRASS AND LEGUME SEED

IMPORT NEEDS CONTINUE TO RISE

With the rapid development of the livestock and dairy industry in Japan, the need for grass and legume seeds continues to increase.

Japanese production is very small, satisfying only about 20 percent of the total requirement. In 1956, Japan's imports of clover, vetch, and other pasture seeds amounted to 1.7 million pounds, with nearly one million pounds, or 59 percent, coming from the United States. In the January-September 1960 period, imports amounted to more than 3 million pounds, of which 2.6 million, or 84 percent, came from the United States.

The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture estimates that its pasture land will have increased from 138,000 acres in 1960 to 1 million in 1969 by improving natural grass land. Forage crops grown on arable land will more than double. This development of pasture and forage crops will increase the need for grass and legume seeds. Even though great emphasis will be placed on increasing domestic production, import requirements are expected to be 3 times greater by 1969.

Production: Red clover is the most important forage crop seed requirement in Japan. In 1959-60, for example, the consumption of this seed was over 1 million pounds, approximately 54 percent of total forage seed consumption.

The climate in Japan is not suitable to the production of red clover seed, especially on the mainland, because of excessive rainfall in the blooming and harvesting period. The climate is comparatively suitable in Hokkaido, where most of the red clover seed is produced, but even there weather conditions are unfavorable and seed production fluctuates from a low of about 44 thousand pounds to a high of 200 thousand pounds per year on the planted area which ranges from 1,000

JAPAN: Imports of specified U.S. seeds, July 1959-June 1960

Variety	Quantity	Value
	1,000 pounds	1,000 dollars
Alfalfa, certified	11	7
Alfalfa, uncertified	10	3
Alsike clover	2	1
Ladino clover	338	210
Clover, other 1/	1,006	334
Bentgrass	19	9
Fescues	58	15
Kentucky bluegrass	4	3
Orchardgrass	34	10
Timothy	41	7
Grasses, other	520	72
Total grass & legume :	2,043	671
Field 2/	505	60
Flower	1	3
Vegetable	118	76
Grand total	2,667	810

1/ Mostly red clover. 2/ Mostly vetch.

JAPAN: Principal seed imports by country of origin,
1956 to January-September 1960

Item and country of origin	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960 Jan.-Sept.
	1,000 pounds				
Clover:					
United States ..	166	970	780	1,142	1,056
Canada	—	66	485	137	40
France	271	—	—	—	—
Other	152	57	9	18	2
Total	589	1,093	1,274	1,297	1,098
Vetch:					
United States ..	357	75	461	351	529
Lebanon	198	126	244	174	99
Other	53	209	—	66	22
Total	608	410	705	591	650
Other Pasture:					
United States ..	467	146	1,179	739	979
Denmark	2	—	163	2	247
Other	7	396	14	165	79
Total	476	542	1,356	906	1,305
Grand total..	1,673	2,045	3,335	2,794	3,053
Percent from					
United States ..	59	58	73	80	84

to 1,200 acres. Even with the encouragement by the Japanese Government which subsidizes red clover seed growers, the planted area remains small. Yield of domestically produced seed is low and production costs are high.

The wide range of adaptability of Ladino clover, its use for grazing, frequency of harvesting, high palatability to livestock, its use as feed for poultry and hogs, have increased demand for its seed. Production is very small, and most of the demand depends upon imports.

Timothy is one of the most important pasture grasses in the colder regions in Japan. It is widely grown in Hokkaido and other districts, and domestic seed production meets most of the requirement.

Production of orchardgrass and annual ryegrass seed is small and the bulk of the requirements are imported.

Foreign Trade: Data for fiscal year, July 1959 - June 1960, indicate that Japan purchased from the United States \$671 thousand worth of grass and legume seeds, a slight increase over the \$625 thousand purchased the previous year. The 5-year average value in the early 1950's amounted to \$120 thousand.

Red clover is the major seed import from the United States with Ladino clover, white clover and vetch seed in increasing demand.



Growth Through Agricultural Progress

United States Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID

Official Business